

Leicester, Mass. July 30. 1854.

Dear Mr. Estlin; Though it is unusually long since I addressed a letter directly to yourself, I have not the less thought of you, and sought to commune with you in spirit. And though I do not now, as in those former years, receive from you every few weeks a letter full-freighted with your wise counsel, cheering words, & with continual proofs of your heartfelt interest in those labours of the American abolitionists, & your active, zealous participation in them, still I feel that your thoughts and sympathies are flowing towards us, and that we have your prayers and blessing. I am sure you will never cease to be interested in our Anti-Slavery struggle, so long as you have strength to bestow a thought upon anything mortal; and when your mortal has put on immortality, then, I believe, with a new vigour, and a far greater devotion, will your spirit unite in every true word and work for the helpless and oppressed. — I need not say, I am no believer in the modern ideas of "spiritual communication"; they all seem to me to degrade and belittle the subject they profess to teach. But I have, for some fifteen or twenty years, cherished the faith that The Spiritual World ~~is~~ is not afar off, — removed from our world & sphere to an inconceivable distance, — but is near us, around us, as well as wherever else God is. It is indeed com-
panying things which cannot fitly be compared, to speak of places where God is; but we must use the language which we have. And if God is everywhere, and the spirits of the just and good are with Him and in Him, where, in the vast universe, are they not? I see not how we can confine the World of Spirits to any limits, or refuse to admit that this world is one of the many Mansions of our Father's house. And surely there is an almost infinite need that we, in this world, should have the sympathies and help of all good spirits. "Are they not all ministering spirits?" — So, I would fain persuade myself that the cause of humanity will not cease

to be dear to those who loved & served it here, after they shall have put off the mortal, & put on the spiritual, body. Surely, to suppose otherwise, to suppose that they voluntarily cease to care for what engrossed their higher nature here, would be to suppose anything but progress and improvement in the change they have made from the mortal to the immortal. And to suppose they have been removed, by some superior force, from all possible knowledge of the great Moral contest going on among men, and from all further unity of spirit with those who, in comparative weakness and ignorance, are contending for the Right, would be to regard Heaven as, after all, a kind of exile, or a place of selfish ease. But, in all such imaginings, we must ever come back to the conclusion that we know nothing, & can conjecture but little, on these subjects; thankful that, as we are the creatures of One who is infinitely Wise & Good, nothing can be so well for us, as to be wholly and trustfully in His hands. But we will say, with the noble-hearted, undaunted & faithful Paul, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? * * I am persuaded that neither ~~death~~ death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

My dear Sir, I seem to have made a kind of a sermon; but when I sat down here, a short time since, to write you, I had not the most distant idea of writing thus. But, it seems, these were uppermost thoughts with me in connection with you, and you will please look kindly on these poor expressions of my affection & hope for you, - for it was these feelings which prompted me.

I had a few antislavery topics upon which to write you a few lines, by the next Steamship. Day after tomorrow, comes the First of August. There are to be ² celebrations of the Anniversary of W. I. Emancipation in this State - both of which, if the weather is favourable, will be (I don't know) large and

effective. One is to be at Hopkinton, the seat of the community at the head of which is our true & devoted friend Adm. Ballou. The other, at Abington, Plym. County, under the auspices of the State Society. I leave here tomorrow morning early, with the view of attending that meeting. — There is also to be a meeting near New York City, got up by the City Society there. So we are doing what we can to educate this people — stiff-necked & rebellious as ~~every~~ the do Jews were — into common-sense ideas, and undivided principles, of freedom and justice, doing unto others as we would be done by, and believing that Honesty is the best Policy & trust Safety. And we are not without proofs that the labours of the Abolitionists have not been in vain. The country — i.e. the whole North, — was never so stirred, never so intelligent, with regard to the character & encroachments of the Slave Power as now. — I hope you will feel some interest at witnessing the recent improvements made in the "Antislavery Standard". The Penn. Freeman is now united with it; and the Penn. A.S. Socy. have agreed to raise & pay the Amⁿ. Socy. during the ensuing year the handsome sum of \$3000; for which they are to receive the "Stand", for subscribers in their State, not exceeding 2000 papers. This enables us to present the paper slightly enlarged, with new type, ^{*} on a better quality of paper, and to command more editorial talent, — i.e. no new editors, but articles from the most able antislavery writers in the land. The leading editorial in the "S." of yesterday (July 29.) is from the pen of Mr. Talbot, a lawyer of ability & distinction in the State of Maine. — I have to thank you for several papers lately rec'd., one the Morn. Advertiser, wherein I found myself, to my great surprise, elevated to ~~the~~ ^{my acknowledgements for} editorial honours, — which are due, after all, to you & Mary. I believe the extract was from a letter I had written to her. I have also had several "Advocates", directed in your hand-writing, — these I regard as your letters to me. Two of them are now before me; one sent a good many months ago, — the other recently. They tell me of your unabated regard for our cause, & your sympathy with us.

I wish now to say one thing, which I should have said long ago; but which has escaped me, when I have been writing to Bristol. - You doubtless will recollect that when the articles on the American Unitarian body were published in the "Advocate", there were several Errata, which had to be corrected in a subsequent ~~number~~ ^{edition}. These errors annoyed me somewhat at the time, as I thought that Mr. Matthew, (who I understood had prepared the articles) might have avoided them. To my surprise & mortification, I found, on recurring to the MS., which I had furnished to you and which (at my request) you kindly returned to me, that the principal errors in those articles were a faithful transcript from my own lines. The time of Dr. Channing's death was plainly stated 1840, - instead of 1842 as it should have been. And the date of the most full & stirring discussion on Anti-Slavery, ever had in the Amerⁿ. Unitⁿ. Assocⁿ, was given in 1845, instead of 1844, as it sh^d have been. (There were special reasons for my being accurate, & desiring accuracy, in the latter case); and how I came to make the blunder is to me quite inexplicable, - especially as I had determined to be very exact.) - The other mistakes were mostly in the spelling of names, - & not to be wondered at, under the circumstance - I refer to it, now, in order to release Mr. Matthew from any ^{small} blame which may have fallen to his share in the premises, - but which properly belongs to me. —

A fortnight since I wrote a long letter - my first - to Mr. Steinthal, which I hope he may have received by this time. He seems to be deeply, & very wisely, interested in the Anti-Slavery cause, and to be doing an excellent work in Bridgwater. — What a capital letter was that of Marsini to Dr. Beechell, I hope he won't come to America. I should fear that the Slaveholders would catch him in some of their diabolical snares.

We are watching the European War with no little interest. It would now appear that Russia means to fight it out. I think Austria will take very good care not to fight against Russia. And we have pretty reliable intelligence - indeed the Washington Government organ as good as admit, that a treaty of some sort has lately been entered into between Russia & the United States. Highly probable - nothing more natural, indeed. Gt. Britain, & even France, are too free for a Government, the ~~real~~ ^{Russian} ^{Anglo-American} tool of Slaveholders as it is, the organ of the vilest despotism the sun ever shone upon. Czarism & Slaveholding are one in spirit, and we have the European War to thank for developing that fact so that all may see it. Is it not a singular state of things? The United States, nominally neutral, virtually on the side of Russia, in a Contest where Russia is fighting for the most Absolute Government, & Complete Subjection of the People! Such is Slavery's work! But I believe all will work for the best. - Meanwhile if the U.S. will favour Russia in the future, Russia will agree to keep England & France busy, while the U.S. Govt. seizes upon Cuba. This is to be the game, ^{I doubt not.} And when Spain finds she has actually lost Cuba, she will consent to take \$100,000,000, as a soother of her wounded dignity, and a sort of offset for her loss.

But I will now release you, & finish with a few lines to Mary. - Even affectionately, A.M. Sawtell